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04.17.02

PATENT
Docket No.: 19603/1451 (CRF D-2008A)

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant: Xin-Yun Huang
Serial No: 09/273,217
Cnfrm. No.: 6809
Filed: March 19, 1999
For: METHODS FOR IDENTIFYING SPECIFIC ION CHANNEL BLOCKERS

Examiner:
N. Basi

Art Unit:
1646

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AMENDMENT UNDER 37 C.F.R. § 1.116

U.S. Patent and Trademark Office
P.O. Box 2327
Arlington, Virginia 22202
Box: AF

Dear Sir:

In response to the December 4, 2001, office action, please amend the above-identified patent application as follows:

In the Claims:

Please amend claims 1, 6, 19, and 20 as follows:

1. (Thrice Amended) A method of identifying an ion channel blocker for an ion channel comprising:

providing an external vestibule portion of an ion channel, wherein said external vestibule portion is the portion of the ion channel located between the S5 transmembrane and pore forming region of the ion channel or between the pore forming region and the S6 transmembrane of the ion channel, and

identifying, as an ion channel blocker for an ion channel, an antibody, binding portion of the antibody, probe, or ligand which antibody, binding portion of the antibody, probe, or ligand binds to the external vestibule portion of the ion channel and is effective to inhibit ion transport through the ion channel.